

### Care for Business Vehicles

- Employees should take business vehicles to a car wash, or use non-phosphate, biodegradable detergents.
- Dry up spills of oil or antifreeze with absorbent materials such as sand or kitty litter.
- When maintaining vehicles, drain oil, lubricants and antifreeze into containers and seal them.
- Take used lubricants to a designated gas station or recycling center for disposal.

### Building Care

- Clean rain gutters frequently.
- Do not rinse paint cans, brushes, detergent pails or other cleaning containers on your driveway, parking lots, sidewalks, or the street.



### Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: What is storm water run-off?
- A: Storm water runoff is the water that flows off roofs, driveways, parking lots, streets, and other hard surfaces during rain storms. Rather than being absorbed into the ground, it drains into ditches, and storm sewers. It does not receive treatment before entering waterways.
- Q: How do I dispose of hazardous waste, chemicals, etc?
- A: Contractors and businesses need to contact a reputable disposal company.
- Q: What problems do polluted storm water run-off lead to?
- A: Storm water can carry harmful non-point source pollutants and destroy aquatic life habitats. In an area with natural ground cover, only 10% of rainwater becomes runoff, the rest is absorbed or evaporated. However, in urban areas, up to 55% of rainfall can become storm water runoff.

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#### Sources:

[http://www.gov.edmonton.ab.ca/am\\_pw/drainge\\_services/environment/water\\_pollution\\_facts.html](http://www.gov.edmonton.ab.ca/am_pw/drainge_services/environment/water_pollution_facts.html)  
<http://www.epa.gov>

## BUSINESS

### NPDES Phase II Regulations



## City of Salem Virginia



## What is the purpose of NPDES Phase II?

This brochure provides information about storm water drainage in Salem and highlights ways for businesses to reduce pollution. The



United States' Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a plan under the Clean Water Act to improve water quality in our lakes, streams, and rivers. This plan is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

(NPDES). Currently, Salem, Virginia, is faced with meeting water quality standards for storm water drainage, which is the runoff from rooftops, streets, and other impervious surfaces. Salem is required to implement six minimum control measures (1) public education and outreach (2) public participation (3) illicit discharge detection (4) construction site runoff control (5) post-construction runoff control and (6) pollution prevention. These requirements are being used to "preserve, improve, and protect the nation's water resources and polluted storm water runoff (EPA 2002)." Storm water that goes into drains is a concern to the EPA and Salem due to high concentrations of pollutants.

## How does NPDES Phase II affect businesses?

- Salem is faced with meeting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Phase II requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). One of Salem's goals is to raise public awareness so that Salem businesses will be able to make better-informed decisions about where they dispose of waste(s).
- Salem businesses are responsible for making informed decisions that affect the Roanoke River and surrounding water ways.
- Salem would like to gain the support of businesses for this program in order to provide cleaner water resources for a healthier environment.

## Did you know?

- Oil that is dumped in storm drains goes straight to the Roanoke river. Oil and other water pollution degrades surface waters making them unsafe for drinking, fishing, swimming, and other activities.
- When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways.



## What your business needs to know:

### Landscaping

- Don't fertilize or apply weed killers to your lawn before a forecasted rain shower - chemicals will wash away. Only apply recommended amounts.
- Use slow release natural fertilizers and low toxicity pest control products.
- Sweep or soak up chemical spills on parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks.
- Bag, mulch or compost lawn waste. Don't sweep leaves, grass and other debris into the gutter.
- Select plants and grasses that grow easily in Salem and require less water, fertilizers and pesticides.
- Control sprinkler run-off by watering only when necessary, and aim sprinkler heads away from paved surfaces.
- Sweep your parking lot, sidewalk, and driveway instead of hosing them down.
- Control erosion. Stabilize exposed soil areas to prevent soil from eroding during rain events. This is particularly important on steep slopes. The most cost-effective choice is to vegetate the area, preferably with a mulch or binder that will hold soils.